

5th February 1924]

Munsifs' Courts.

Pay of examiners of copies of District Munsifs' Courts.

110 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(i) whether it is a fact that, prior to the Great War, the examiners of copies of District Munsifs' Courts ranked equal in pay and status with the third clerks of the said courts ;

(ii) whether it is a fact that during the War Government granted the same scale of temporary increase of pay to the examiners of copies as was granted to the clerks in the regular line including the third clerks ;

(iii) whether it is also a fact that under the revisions of pay recently sanctioned Government have reduced the pay and prospects of the examiners of copies far below the scale granted to the clerks in the regular line ; and

(iv) if the answers to the above questions be in the affirmative, whether the Government will be pleased to assign their reasons which induced them to degrade the examiners as indicated above ?

A.—(i) The pay in both cases was the same.

(ii) Government did not grant any temporary increase of pay during the war but merely granted war allowance. It was on the same scale for examiners and third clerks.

(iii) The scale sanctioned for clerks employed in District Munsifs' Courts is Rs. 35—35—1½—50—1—60 and that sanctioned for examiners is Rs. 35—1—40.

(iv) The Government do not consider the work of the examiner so onerous as that of clerks of the regular establishment. In their opinion, the duties of the examiner are more mechanical for the performance of which no long experience is required.

Panchayats.

Village panchayats.

111 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. M. MURUGAPPA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the working of the system of village panchayats has been successful, and if so, whether the Government propose to extend the system throughout the Presidency ; and

(b) whether any panchayat courts were introduced in the Ramnad district ; if so, the nature of their working, and if not, whether the Government have any proposals to introduce the system in the Ramnad district ?

A.—(a) If the hon. Member is referring to Panchayat courts, his attention is referred to G.O. No. 2410, Law (General), dated the 2nd October 1923, which has been placed on the Editors' Table. It is the policy of the Government to encourage the formation of Panchayat courts throughout the Presidency wherever local conditions permit.

(b) Sixty-seven courts were introduced in the Ramnad district by the end of the year 1922. The nature of the working of these courts shows that they are becoming popular.